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A.K. Dash & B.K. Nayak, State Sericultural Research Station, Orissa, Baripada-757 001, India.

## A Melanic Aberration of Philotes sonorensis (Lycaenidae) from California

The Sonora Blue, *Philotes sonorensis* (Felder & Felder) with ts exquisite color pattern of iridescent light blue, black and white markings, and red spots, is one of California's most beautiful butterflies. Locally common in the nondesert portions of California, it is found in the mountains of Santa Barbara County,



Fig. 1. Aberrant P. sonorensis: left, dorsal; right, ventral



Fig. 2. Habitat of *P. sonorensis* in Mission Canyon. (see text to-spelling it is doubt)

flying in February-March of each year. The author has collected this Blue in Mission Canyon, in the Santa Ynez Mountains, and in Oso Canyon, in the San Rafael Mountains.

The Santa Ynez Mountains, predominantly chaparral-oak woodpland, form a 2,000 ft to 4,000 ft. wall behind the cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, and Goleta Valley. Large colonies of *Philotes sonorensis* are to be found on its south slope. Mission Canyon is a large watershed below La Cumbre Peak where a number of small waterways converge to form Mission Creek, which runs down through the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens, behind the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, through the city of Santa Barbara, and out to the Pacific Ocean. There is a bridge in upper Mission Canyon, which crosses the creek at the 1,400 ft. elevation, and above this bridge the foodplant, *Dudleya lanceolata* (Nutt.) Britt. & Rose. Crassulaceae is abundent on the rocky hill-sides, and supports a large colony of this Blue. (Figure 2)

Here in Mission Canyon a male melantic aberration of *Philotes sonorensis*, was caught by Robert F. Denno, February 23, 1961. (Figure 1) This is a striking aberration, with the black spots on both the forewings and the hindwings smeared across the wings. Both wing surfaces are affected.

Richard Carl Priestaf, 5631 Cielo Avenue, Goleta, California 93117.

## A Replacement Name for *Lycaena editha nevadensis* Austin (Lycaenidae)

It has come to may attention that the name  $Lycaena\ editha\ nevadensis$  Austin (J. Res. Lepid. 23:83, 1984) is an invalid junior primary homonym of  $Lycaena\ nevadensis$  Oberthur (Etud. Ent. 20:pl. 4, fig. 54, 1986). To rectify this, I propose the following replacement name for  $L.\ e.\ nevadensis$ :

## Lycaena editha obscuramaculata

The description, types and type locality remain as in Austin (1984, op. cit.: 83-88). The new name reflects the faintness of the maculation on the ventral hindwing, characteristic of the subspecies. At the time of the original description, specimens were known only from northern Elko and Humboldt counties, Nevada. Subsequently, I have examined material from southwestern Idaho (Canyon County, CM) and Ruby Valley, Elko County, Nevada (AMNH).

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George T. Austin, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 700 Twin Lakes Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89107.